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Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 FEA-02 INT-08 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 NSC-10 SS-20

STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 PRS-01 PA-04 NEA-11 IO-14 AF-10

SCI-06 DRC-01 /214 W
---------- 082795
O R 061840Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3146
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1771

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, IT
SUBJECT: ENERGY: GOI VIEWS ON EC POSITION IN ENERGY CONFERENCE

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

1. ECON-COMM MINISTER WAS ABLE TO SEE DIR GEN ECONIMIC AFFAIRS
GUAZZARONI BRIEFLY FOLLOWING LATTER'S RETURN EVENING FEBRUARY 6
FROM BRUSSELS. GUAZZARONI PROVIDED GOI DELEGATION LIST (SEPTEL).
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ECMIN ASKED HIM FOR COMMENTS ON THE BRUSSELS MEETING, NOTING ON

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A PERSONAL AND UNINSTRUCTED BASIS THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF IT
COULD BE CONSTRUED AS PREJUDGING THE ENERGY CONFERENCE NEGOTIA-
TIONS.

2. GUAZZARONI, ECHOING OTHER EC SOURCES, PUT GREAT AND REPEATED
STRESS ON THE EC CONVICTION WHICH GOI SHARED THAT THE CONFEENCE
MUST NOT TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED BY THE
PRODUCING COUNTRIES AS AN INDICATION OF MOVEMENT TOWARD A BLOC OF
CONSUMERS DESIGNED TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES.
HE ALSO REPEATED THAT, IN COMMUNITY AND ITALIAN VIEW, THE CONFER-
ENCE SHOULD PREPARE THE WAY FOR FURTHER STAGES IN CONSUMER-PRODUCER
RELATIONS, USING ALL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE COMPETENT
TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM AND IN PARTICULAR THE OECD AND THE IMF.

3. IN PARTICULAR, GUAZZARONI SAID, THE EC IS CONCERNED THAT IT
SHOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY THROUGH WITH ITS PROJECT FOR A MEETING
BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE ARAB STATES. HE STRESSED THAT THIS
MEETING SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A EUROPEAN-ARAB OIL DEAL BUT RATHER
AS A STEP IN THE PROMOTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FULL RANGE OF
ECONOMIC RELATIONS. THIS SAID, THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE COULD
CERTAINLY SERVE TO ADVANCE COOPERATION ON THE BETTER USE OF ENERGY
RESOURCES AND THE CREATION OF NEW ONES. HE STRESSED THAT EC
MERELY WANTED TO SAFEGUARD ITS AUTONOMY IN DEALING WITH THE ARABS
IN A BROAD WAY. NEVERTHELESS HE REALIZED THAT THE US, EC AND
JAPANESE MUST WORK TOGETHER DESPITE THE INITIAL NEGATIVE ARAB
REACTION TO THE CONFERENCE.

4. IN SUM, GUAZZARONI SAID, THE COMMUNITY BY SETTING TWO POINTS,
I.E., ON FUTURE PROCEDURES AND ON EC-ARAB DISCUSSIONS,
HAS BROUGHT BACK THE FRENCH TO THE EC AND TO THE CONFERENCE.
WITHIN THESE POINTS THE COMMUNITY REMAINS FULLY FLEXIBLE AND
PREPARED TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY AND COOPERATIVELY. THE LAST THING
THE COMMUNITY WANTS, HE SAID, IS TO BE SEEN AS AN ADVERSARY
AND TO ENGAGE IN ANY KIND OF POLEMICS.

5. GUAZZARONI ADDED THAT THE MFA WILL SEEK TO CLARIFY THE ISSUE IN
AN INFORMAL STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THIS EVENING OR TOMORROW,
STRESSING THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE WHICH ITALY AND THE COMMUNITY
WILL BE BRINGING TO THE CONFERENCE. (COMMENT: ITALIAN PRESS
FEBRUARY 6 WIDELY INTERPRETS EC POSITION AS VICTORY FOR THE GOF
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AND CARRIES STORIES TO THE EFFECT THAT ITALY HAS GIVEN IN TO
THE FRENCH LINE.)
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